

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

BY BRUCE BARNETT

Join me: At Duxbury's Galleries

I've found (so far) eight art galleries in Duxbury. They hold a lifetime's art appreciation and experience — an inexhaustible resource.

Artica Gallery, near Hall's Corner, is a trip into a world of color, form, and a little history. Manager Jane Sorensen knows every piece and every artist, and enjoys shooting the breeze. She runs the store as a gallery indeed, with featured artists, openings, and even a corner for youngsters to be creative.

"Watch the Clipper for our first show of the season opening May 4," Jane noted. "Duxbury comes alive in May."

Too many eye-catchers to list. Brockman's Four Low Trees. Sleeper's panoramas of the Duxbury views I would capture, especially Duxbury #1. Ellen Leahy: I know her now, seeing Island Life and Ride With the Wind. Timeless.

The Art Complex Museum on Alden Street counts as three galleries. Leah DePrizio's installation in the Phoenix Hall is a multidimensional event in paper mache and shadow. She says in her artist's statement that a "majestic Beech tree" inspired her at her childhood home. I believe her.

The shadows! The shadows are part of it. What memory she has! A unified world imagined under a child's massive Beech. I'm there.

The Duxbury Art Association's Winter Juried Show and their Young Artist Celebration both run through April, also at the ACM. The juried show presents 115 works picked from the 710 submitted. My favorites are *Field on Top of Mt. Pisagh*, by Ann Marie Oliver-Nickerson, and the sculpture *Light Construction* by Rob Millard. Go, and pick yours.

Nestled in the ACM's Rotations area is the DAA's Young Artists Celebration, a first-come, first-shown collection of works by 110 artists aged 18 and under.

Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Embraced in the center of the show, a seamless transition of vision and whimsy, the growing center of a community of art. One hundred and ten young artists. We'll be all right. We have a future.

The Helen Bumpus Gallery at the Duxbury Free Library shows *Expressions in Oils* by Rita Brace through May. The Bumpus Gallery features works by local artists, including our students. Brace's one-woman show presents a variety of moments in New England with an impressionist's devotion to light, color, and relationship of forms executed with bold, confident strokes. *Duxbury Fog* stands out, along with *Sargent and Sunflowers*.

Ellison Center for the Arts boasts two galleries: the Lillian and Ture Bengtz (downstairs) and the Bobby Cutler (upstairs). I snooped through the next show with the help of DAA Executive Director Allison Cowen and Assistant Director Med Hornecker. *DAA Faculty at Work* will show the talent behind the teaching at the Ellison Center. Patricia Gray's pastel *Meadowmarsh* stole my breath, as did Vincent LoPicollo's pair of seascapes in oil. I'll be at the opening reception Sunday, April 28 from 2:00 to 4:00. This show calls for a column of its own.

Allison told me Charles Bittenger founded the DAA in 1917. He was a friend of John Singer Sargent (yes, the one whose work is quoted in Rita Brace's *Sargent and Sunflowers*). Bittenger, she said, lived in that rare brick and gold clapboard wonder on Tremont Street, near Harrison. Sargent would have visited Duxbury, and painted here. Bittenger's study for a portrait of Gwen Coffin graces the office wall; one could easily mistake it for a Sargent portrait: a stunning meeting of subject, artist, and viewer.

"They were," said Allison, "in the same circle."

Sargent's work fills the last of my eyes-on galleries from wall to wall to ceiling: Duxbury's Museum of Fine Arts. O.K., it's the *Boston MFA*, but the Library's free passes make it ours, too. Any featured show requires a fee, but the pass gives you the whole permanent collection. Art demands experience in the flesh. If you haven't been to a world-class art museum since you were a child, I urge you to reserve a pass and go. "Duxbury's" MFA will cast fire into your vision: the trip home will be filled with faces from your dreams, more fascinating than ever before. Go. You'll be right at home.